

THE
Capitol NEWS
FROM HOLLYWOOD

VOL. 5, NO. 4

52

APRIL, 1947



THE



Published Monthly by
CAPITOL PUBLICATIONS, INC.
Sunset and Vine, Hollywood 28, Calif.

EDITED BY DAVE DEXTER, JR.

At Deadline

Last-minute changes in the summer radio picture found Tony Martin taking over the Texaco program March 30, replacing Eddie Bracken. Martin earlier was reported to be signed to replace Eddie Cantor for the hiatus period of 13 weeks, but Texaco rushed in and packed the singer to head his own show over CBS every Sunday. Al Jolson declined it.

Big name guests will be heard with Martin regularly. Texaco is said to be spending \$12,000 every week for Martin and the studio orchestra.

Harry James will leave California on April 4 with a revamped band. The trip will take the musicians to New York but not a single theater will be played, the Horn preferring one-night stands and a run at the Astor Hotel to the grueling grind of five and six shows a day.

Blonde Marion Morgan quit Harry on March 10, and will stay in Hollywood. She is said to be signed for a big spot on a network radio show starting this fall. Willie (Not the Lion) Smith, Juan Tizol and Lou Fromm will make the trip east. Buddy DeVito, who has been struggling in Chicago, trying to get his own band started, is said to be rejoining Harry for the tour. Corky Corcoran and a dozen other James vets plan to remain in Hollywood, most of them to get their Local '47 cards.

British-born Dennis Madison on April 9 will launch his new "Music Maker" newspaper nationally. It will be the first weekly music publication ever attempted in the United States and will be published in Hollywood for distribution throughout the nation. Madison, who came to the States in 1936, has been in Hollywood nearly two years preparing the sheet, which will be tabloid in format. His offices are at 7424 Sunset Boulevard.

The life of B. G. (Buddy) De Sylva, chairman of Capitol's board and former exec at Paramount, will be screened. Buddy has turned out more than 100 hit songs and the film will emphasize them all the way.



DAVE DEXTER'S surface noise

Peckin' It Out—And Nothin' to Say

SOMETIMES IT'S EASY. The town is full of news and it's merely a question of using the most important and discarding the remainder. This month it's different. All the news that's fit to print—and perhaps some that isn't—is strung out on the other 15 pages.

To be blunt about the whole thing, Hollywood is a pretty dull hamlet these days.

No one is happy. Are they happy in your town?

Bandleaders are especially touchy. They claim that musicians are still living in a gimme-whatcha-got world. "A guy that ain't worth union scale," one mighty maestro argues, "asks for two bills a week." But the sideman sees it differently. "These leaders are too big for their pants," they claim. "Most of 'em chisel you down till you're working for figs. A guy can't live on less than \$15 a day now not counting his kids and the chain."

The men who buy bands assert that they don't make any loot promoting dances, or hotel dining rooms, or boites in which live music is featured. The bookers are finding that the bands ask for too high a guarantee and that the band buyers are too stingy to pay what a band is worth.

Vocalists, you think they're happy? The orioles declare they don't earn enough to buy a new gown twice a year, and the crooners side in with the sidemen and give with the food, rent, kid's clothes arguments. It all comes out six, two and even. And everyone seems to have a logical argument!

Are grocery workers unhappy too? Are those courageous characters who operate street cars unhappy like the singers? Are the placid little men who stand behind the cages in the nation's banks unhappy like bandleaders are unhappy?

We'd like to know. The music biz can't be 100 per cent wrong.

ALTHOUGH ARMY officers who investigated frankly say that the chances of Glenn Miller's still being alive somewhere are less than one in a million, Mrs. Helen Miller—Glenn's pretty and charming widow—still maintains that he will yet return home and resume his music career. She insists that he is alive, and that the plane in which he disappeared while hopping the treacherous English channel more than two years ago did not crash.

Maybe that's the answer to everyone's uneasiness these days. Right or wrong, Helen Miller displays a courage, a spirit, an optimism that simply isn't common among most of us today. The music business—the world itself—might be a little more cheerful and confident if there were more Helen and Glenn Millers to inspire and guide so many of us who lack their rare qualities.

First Nitory Job Set For Peggy Lee April 15

Peggy Lee will tackle her first night club job as a single starting April 15 at the Bodge in Hollywood. Long popular for her subtle singing with various dance bands, and in theaters and on radio programs, Peggy will team with Dave Barbour for the Bodge stint.

Barbour's guitar and small combo

will be essentially the same that back Peg's pipes on Cap records. He is reported "completely" recovered from his recent critical illness following a stomach operation.

Peggy and Dave, in private life Mr. and Mrs., also are about set for a summer radio show of their own, to be broadcast coast to coast and with a noted bandleader also featured. Contracts were about to be delivered at press time.

In the meantime they are appearing every Wednesday with Bing Crosby on the Philco show via ABC. Crosby soon will begin his 13-week vacation and is contemplating a trek to London.

BG Coasting Through June

What at first was planned to be a short four-week stay in California has developed into a long-term deal for Benny Goodman and his family.

Goodman now plans to remain in California through the month of June. Recording and his Monday night radio show via NBC will keep him busy. And although he has played clarinet for 20 years and rates as the greatest virtuoso of the stick, Goodman still practices a minimum of four hours every day at his home in Westwood Station.

Capitol, in April, will release the first record faces featuring Goodman's new sextet in which an accordion, played by Ernie Filice, is prominently featured.

L. A. Jockey Planning Jazz Concert Series

Los Angeles jazz fans may soon be offered something different in the way of concerts. Gene Norman plans to present a concert every month featuring every type jazzman. Only "screechers" and "barnyard tenor saxists" will be barred, he said, and no more than 1,200 patrons will be sold tickets to each event. Eddie Laguna will assist Norman in producing the series.

Georgia Gibbs Gets Summer Pabst Program

David Rose's orchestra and songs by Georgia Gibbs will be heard for Pabst this summer while Eddie Cantor and Margaret Whiting vacation until fall. Tony Martin, earlier, was reported teaming with the Rose ork but he suddenly switched to Texaco. Charles Herbert will write and direct the Rose-Gibbs show and music will be featured exclusively.



FOUR HOURS every day, no less, are spent by Benny Goodman practicing on clary. This shot was made at his Westwood Station home in March. Benny and his band, now recording for Capitol, are heard every Monday night via NBC with Victor Borge coast to coast.

—Photo by Gene Lester.

Jess Stacy May Lead Band Again

Jess Stacy, currently holding down the piano chair in Benny Goodman's crew, is mulling plans for another band of his own.

The Cape Girardeau 88 ace, who is married to Lee Wiley, has hopes of resuming a maestro role this spring. He will work in and out of Hollywood. But he has not yet set a date for the launching.

James Gets Back \$18,587 in Taxes

Refunds for overpayment of federal income taxes made several prominent musicians happy in March, including Harry James. The trumpeter, who just a few days previously, with his wife Betty Grable, had sued a man for allegedly selling him a string of horses which couldn't win a race, received a check for \$18,587.

Jimmy Dorsey got back \$1,170 and Shep Fields drew \$3,954. Vincent Lopez received a refund of \$536, George Jessel accepted \$1,167 and the classical maestro, Werner Janssen, banked his \$2,644.

James now figures he can—with luck—buy a horse that may win a race.

One-Nighters Set For Will Osborne

Will Osborne hit the road in March to play six weeks of one-nighters in the Pacific Northwest under MCA guidance. A "sweet" aggregation, the band has a mess of new arrangements by Jimmy Mundy and Jack Hayes and shapes up with five brass, five reeds, three rhythm and girl vocalist.

'Parade' Goes to NBC

The Lucky Strike Hit Parade moves from CBS to NBC on April 26 after nearly 10 years on CBS. Andy Russell and guest fem singers will continue to star on the show with Mark Warnow's ork. The program will be cut from 45 minutes every Saturday to a half-hour when the network switch is made.

off the cuff

MANY WEST COAST bands and name singers are refusing to work the ornate new Flamingo Hotel in nearby Las Vegas as a result of publicity given the spot by Los Angeles newspapers in recent weeks. Constructed at a cost of more than \$5,000,000 and with heavy emphasis on its wide-open gambling rooms and \$25 a day hotel rooms, the Flamingo was erected at a time when more than 100,000 former servicemen were without homes in L.A. alone. Matt Weinstock of the Daily News pointed out the injustice of the situation and other papers followed up, pulling no punches in criticizing a situation that allows homeless families to remain homeless while millions are spent for luxurious gambling quarters.

Henry King's ork and the Andrews Sisters, nevertheless, have been working the Flamingo. But the hostelry is having trouble setting future bookings.

George Van Epps, guitar virtuoso, is in a spot. He is featured on both the Lucky Strike Hit Parade and Jo Stafford Chesterfield show and he smokes cigarettes like mad. He's thinking of switching to cigars.

Hollywood has been real quiet lately. Seems that Wingy Manone has been working a nitery up in Elko, Nev.

Judy Garland will play the Ethel Merman role in "Annie Get Your Gun" when MGM makes a film of it later this year. Music in the show is by Irving Berlin.

Xavier Cugat's new vocalists are Jose Moreno and Rosina Pagan.

Reviews of "Carnegie Hall" film range from fair to excellent, but at least the LeBaron-Morros production sets a new high for use of big names of the classical and pop music world. Among those seen performing are Vaughn Monroe, Harry James and their bands, Walter Damosch, Bruno Walter, Lily Pons, Artur Rodzinski, Leopold Stokowski, Jascha Heifetz, Charley



THE MAD MONK of Pasadena's KXLA, Alex Cooper, celebrated the start of his program's second year (and a new contract) last month with the help of June Christy. But Cooper, who alleges that his pay envelope contains only passes to local ballrooms, digs deep into his jeans to indicate that La Belle June will have to pay the freight at the theater box-office.

Photo by Jack Barcus.

Previn, Gregor Piatigorsky, Artur Rubinstein, Jan Peerce, Rise Stevens, Ezio Pinza, the Philharmonic Ork of New York, Fritz Reiner and the N. Y. Philharmonic Quintet. Yes, and Marsha Hunt and Martha O'Driscoll to brighten things up.

Trombonist Tommy Pederson worked his first job with new band in San Diego. He's playing the Palladium Mondays, too.

Alvino Rey Ork To Play Aragon With 10 Brass

Alvino Rey's orchestra will return to California, where it was organized a year ago following Rey's discharge from the navy, to play a long engagement at the Aragon Ballroom in Ocean Park—just outside Hollywood—starting April 25.

A Californian himself, Rey has been playing the eastern and corn-belt circuits consistently for 14 months. The Aragon will air his guitar and band nightly via KHJ-Mutual.

Featured with Rey's musicians are the Blue Reys, vocal group comprising Jimmy Joyce, Tom Kenny, Ralph Hall and Blossom Deary. The Aragon booking marks a radical departure in the ballroom's policy, inasmuch as a long line of "mickey" bands including Lawrence Welk, Jan Garber and Art Kassel have held down the stand in recent months.

Rey features ten brass and a rhythm section that leaps.

Lyman on Drums in New 'Sarge' Movie

Joe Venuti, Wingy Manone, Jack McVea and other instrumentalists are being featured in Monogram's "Sarge Goes to College," a filmusical slanted at teen-aged audiences which went into production Feb. 27.

Abe Lyman will be seen as a drummer, a role he hasn't played in many years. Candy Candido and his trick voice, Jerry Wald on clarinet and Henry Nemo, zany songwriter, also are skedded for parts. Maurice Duke, associate producer of the flicker, rounded up the musicians for the "jam session" sequences.

TD Fluffs California For Florida Vacation

Following a short stay in Los Angeles, Tommy Dorsey left for Florida and will vacation there at least a month before returning to his ballroom, the Casino Gardens, in Ocean Park, Cal. "I have no plans," said Tommy. "I've bought a new cabin cruiser and for the next few weeks I want to play with it." Tommy said he would ship the boat to California when his vacation ends. He disbanded his orchestra recently and has no plans of reorganizing in the near future.

Kenton Leaves Coast For Texas



June Christy Set To Cut Own Sides

With his long-awaited and controversial six-minute performance of his own "Concerto to End All Concertos" just released on a record, Stan Kenton headed for Texas after a 30-day tour of the west coast. The Kenton band plays Fort Worth April 4 and 5, moving east to wind up April at the Hippodrome Theater in Baltimore.

Daily's Meadowbrook Skedded

June Christy, meanwhile, signed to record under her own name for Capitol and her first two sides are slated for release shortly. Frank De Vol conducted

ALL'S WELL WITH WOODY

Back again in the good graces of California disc jockies who, briefly, tried to ban his records from broadcasts because he became a jock himself, Woody Herman receives congrats from Stan Kenton in this unposed, spontaneous photo at left. The shot was made by Ralph Forney.

Herman Still Spinning Wax; Jockies Quit Baiting Him

Los Angeles disc jockies, approximately 20 strong, have abandoned their announced plan to ignore Woody Herman and his records on their broadcasts and the little man from Milwaukee is back again in their good graces.

Many of the jocks became incensed a few weeks back when Herman accepted an offer from Al Jarvis to take over Jarvis' Saturday "Make Believe Ballroom" stanza. Meeting together, the rival wax-whirlers at first agreed that Woody was encroaching upon their jobs and endangering their positions. Away from the meeting, however, all but two or three concluded that it was Herman's right to be a jockey, if he chose to be, and that concerted action against him would, in the long run, hurt their own programs more than it would harm Herman.

Ted Lenz of KGFI, mentioned in the March Capitol News as being among the jockies who violently protested Herman's chores over KLAC with Jarvis, was quick to flatly deny it. "I was one who argued exactly the opposite," Lenz wrote the editor of the Cap News. "He has the privilege of doing what he pleases and I was not one of the jockies

the accompany orchestra with four French horns featured. June continues, however, as Kenton's canary.

The band also is set to play two weeks at Frank Daily's Meadowbrook in Cedar Grove, N. J., starting May 16. The engagement will follow a week at the Howard Theater in Washington and another week, May 9 to 15, at the Earle in Philadelphia.

'Concerto' Actually 3 Years Old

Kenton composed and arranged his "Concerto to End All Concertos" three years ago and refused, until a few months ago, to put it on wax. Finally, when he was satisfied with the musicianship of his band, Stan etched it with solos going to Vido Musso, Ray Wetzel and Boots Mussulli. Stan's piano and Eddie Safranski's bass also are showcased, and because Buddy Childers plays first trumpet so brilliantly he is given special label credit.



Betty Hutton!

'Poppa, Don't Preach to Me'
With THE FOUR HITS and JOE LILLEY and His Orchestra

'Rumble, Rumble, Rumble'
With JOE LILLEY and His Orchestra
from the Paramount Picture, "Pete of the Park"

CAP. 380

Capitol RECORDS



Bob HOPE and Dorothy LAMOUR

'BESIDE YOU'
from the Paramount Picture, "My Favorite Brunette"

'MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE'

with PAUL WESTON and His Orchestra

CAP 381

Capitol RECORDS

Hope 'Serious' On New Discs With Lamour

(Photo on Front Cover)
It's a serious Bob Hope—well, a fairly serious Bob Hope—who makes his debut this month as a singer on Capitol waxings with Dorothy Lamour.

The two entertainers, who share top billing with Bing Crosby in the new Paramount release, "My Favorite Brunette," have never before recorded together. Their first etching pairs "Beside You" with "My Favorite Brunette." Paul Weston's orchestra provides accompaniment.

Both tunes are by the team of Livingston-Evans, who knocked off "To Each His Own" last year. "My Favorite Brunette" is not from the "My Favorite Brunette" movie. "Beside You," however, is from the picture. If you think that's confusing just listen to Hope sing with Lamour.

King Cole Trio In L.A. May 20

Nat Cole finally decided which spot he would play when he returns to Hollywood. On May 20 he will play the L. A. Lincoln Theater for a week with his trio. On May 27 he then will go into the Bodge on Sunset Boulevard, a smart little niter that has been struggling without benefit of big name entertainers.

Closing at the Chicago Theater in Chi on April 3, the trio will then play the Chicago Regal, the Paradise in Detroit and jobs in Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago (Savoy one-nighter) and Denver before going into Texas in early May for several concert dates. Nat, Oscar Moore and Johnny Miller also will be airing for Wildroot every Saturday via NBC.

Ray Kellogg, Eileen Wilson Join Les Brown

The three-month layoff which Les Brown recently enjoyed evidently did not affect the quality of his music.

Opening amid big ballyhoo on March 18 at the Palladium, Brown revealed that his newly-organized outfit featured many new faces, including Ray Kellogg as vocalist. Kellogg sang with Sonny Dunham before the war. Since his discharge from the army he has been recording as vocalist with Skitch Henderson's band.

Ted Nash is still with Les, playing tenor that sounds like an alto. Joe Koch is on baritone, Jimmy Rowles, piano; Jackie Mills, drums; Tony Trizzi, guitar; Joe Mondragon, bass. Rowles and Mondragon are former Woody Herman herdsters. Brown's trombones include Ray Klein, Ray Sims, Freddie Zito and Ralph Phiffner. Frank Beach, Verne Rowe and Bob Higgins form three-fourths of the trumpet section, with another man to be added momentarily.

Les, who got his start as a leader at Duke University with the "Blue Devils" combo, spent his 90 days resting at his Beverly Hills home with his wife and two youngsters. Several members of his 1946 band are expected to rejoin him later after receiving their Los Angeles union cards. They include Jimmy Zito, trumpeter; Jeff Clarkson, pianist; Dick Shanahan, drums, and others.

Butch Stone is back in the band, and proving forte with novelty vocals. The new Brown thrush, who replaces Pat Flaherty, who last fall replaced Doris Day, is Eileen Wilson. She has sung with Will Osborne and other California combos.

The Pally engagement will run for six weeks, Les said, then he will play west coast one-nighters.

bands ahead of him did—the band began pulling customers who never before had been in the Cricket.

Geechie airs every Thursday at 10 p.m. over KXLA with his band. He sings and blows. Former Hampton tenor Freddie Simon and Pianist George Salisbury are his best-known sidemen. The Trenier Twins, Cliff and Claude, share billing with Smith's unit as stars of the Cricket floorshow.

New Film for Hoagy

Hoagy Carmichael will be seen—and heard—in RKO's "Memory of Love" which Harriet Parsons, daughter of Louella, now is producing in Hollywood.

Ernie Filice Quartet Hot H'wood Attraction Via Films, Airshow

Things are breaking but big for the Ernie Filice Quartet in Hollywood. Filice, a California-born accordionist, was featured on Bing Crosby's Philco program March 12, has just completed a choice spot in Paramount's "The Big Clock" mystery feature starring Ray Milland, Maureen O'Sullivan and Rita Johnson, and currently is being headlined in a two-reel Paramount musical short.

Managed by His Drummer

The combo includes Hal Burman on drums, Larry Breen at the bass and Dick Anderson on clarinet. Burman also acts as personal manager of the group, which as yet has not signed booking office or recording contracts.

On his own hook, Filice plays accordion in the Benny Goodman Quintet over NBC every Monday, and has also

waxed with Joe Alexander, new west coast singing sensation, and the David Cavanaugh orchestra.

Uses Unusual Mute

Filice gets a "different" sound from his squeezebox that has Joe Mooney followers, in particular, puzzled. It's a trick that Ernie himself devised and patented, a trick involving the use of a special mute. Benny Goodman considers Filice the "most exciting" young musician to come up the pike since Charlie Christian.

Mischa Elman A Jazz Fan

Another classical virtuoso of international renown in the person of Mischa Elman, vet violinist, went on record last month as a champion of American jazz.

Mr. Elman, in Los Angeles for concerts at the Philharmonic Auditorium, said he felt that the element of jazz is the "one remaining free improvisatory factor left in the world of music and holds untold possibilities for creative composers." It is music, he said, that reflects a "healthful expression of youth and a good outlet for youth's energies and emotions."

Sigmund Romberg Due

A two-night stand by Sigmund Romberg featuring selections by Gershwin, Kern, Romberg and Porter is tabbed for the L. A. Philharmonic Auditorium April 4 and 5. Romberg has been composing for 32 years and is noted for his scores for "The Desert Song," "New Moon" and "Maytime."

Charlie Teagarden, Dale Jones Form New Coast Combo

Newest and most unconventional band to be organized on the west coast in months is the crew which Charlie Teagarden and Dale Jones organized, together, in March following the breakup of the Jack Teagarden combo.

Charlie fronts it with his trumpet. Jones, long known for his bull-fiddle pluckings with Will Osborne and other orks, plays a novel "bass trumpet." The veteran Bernie Billings is on tenor sax.

Still another Teagarden, Cubby, is holding down the drum chair. Don Owens is at the piano, Al Kovich plays clarinet and Swede Lund is on string bass. Now on the road playing breakin dates, the Teagarden-Jones combo is being booked by Frederick Bros.

Monroe Ork Rolls East

Vaughn Monroe, his staff of singers and musicians trained out for Minneapolis after closing at the Palladium on March 16. Contrary to other stories published, Monroe and his troupe did not make a motion picture on this last visit in Hollywood.



ANDY RUSSELL put his wife to work last month, introducing her as a recording star on a new ballad, "Unless It Can Happen With You." The disc, a vocal duet with Paul Weston's orchestra, will be released April 10 with credit lines reading "Andy and Della Russell." She was a singer before he married her a couple of years back.

Charlie Mihn Photo.

Great Britain Next For Andrews Sisters

Following their three-week run at the Oriental Theater in Chicago starting May 1, the singing Andrews Sisters will prepare to sail for London for personal appearances at the Palladium and Ciro's. The trip, their first overseas in peacetime, will fill out the months of June and July on their schedule. The sisters now are in Hollywood and have just completed scenes for "The Road to Rio" starring Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour. Lou Levy, their manager, set the British bookings and may even summon nerve to make the trip himself.

NOW ON CAPITOL

Benny Goodman and His Orchestra

CAP. 376 'IT TAKES TIME' 'MOON-FACED, STARRY-EYED' Featuring Vocal Choruses by Johnny Mercer

CAP. 374 'LONELY MOMENTS' 'WHISTLER'S BLUES'

STAN KENTON And His Orchestra

CONCERTO TO END ALL CONCERTOS—Part I ("Artistry In Jazz Series")

CONCERTO TO END ALL CONCERTOS—Part II

CAP. 382



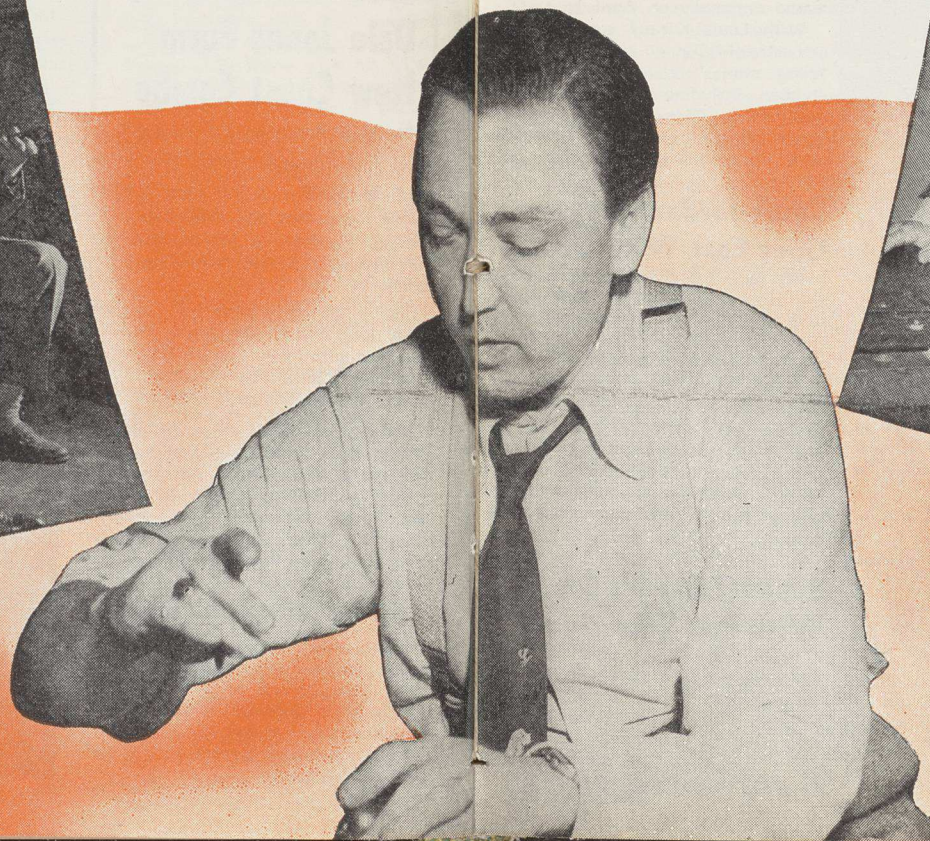
Artistry in Trumpets . . . Here is the powerful Stan Kenton trumpet quintet, man for man the most powerful and accurate of any on the current scene. Johnny Anderson, Buddy Childers, Ray Wetzel, Ken Hanna and Chico Alvarez are the men; Wetzel doubles as vocalist and Alvarez is the only remaining member of the original SK Balboa Beach aggregation. The band this month is touring Texas.

Photo by Gene Howard.



Morocco Bash . . . But actually Hollywood, at the Club Morocco, is where the cats gather every Tuesday for spontaneous improvisation sessions. Shown here are Benny Carter on alto, Harry Babasin, bass, and Barney Kessel, guitar. Red Nichols holds forth on other nights.

Photo by Ben Bennett.



Heading for California . . . Alvino Rey brings his guitar and band to the Aragon this month, after a long absence. He's shown on a recent record date. Above, Skitch Henderson and Margaret Whiting "assist" Bill Anson with the signing of a new KFWB jock contract, marking the start of Anson's second year on the station.

Joe Alexander Boffs 'Em at L. A. Nitery

The west coast's answer to Billy Eckstine, smiling Joe Alexander, moved another rung up the popularity ladder on March 18 when he opened at the ornate new Red Feather Club in Los Angeles as leader of his own quintet with top billing.

Alexander, a former Floyd Ray sideman and singer—he plays drums and string bass—was unearthed last December by Capitol recording scouts and signed to a waxing contract promptly. His "Heartaches" etching, the first modern version of the tune in more than 10 years, has begun to spin merrily in the nation's jukeboxes and hundreds of platter jocks have been boosting it to popularity. At the Red Feather he's playing to capacity crowds.

In the Red Feather band that Alexander is conducting are Tiny Webb, a 300-pound guitarist; Pete Peterson, tenor saxophone; Belvia Arch, bass, and Kenny Bryan, piano. Alexander drums and sings, often simultaneously.

The Red Feather is one of Los Angeles' newest after-dark spots. Both Jack McVea and Joe Liggins were its feature attractions before Alexander zoomed into popularity as a result of his waxings. Fan clubs for Alexander have sprung up the last two months all over the land.

At Last! Be-Bop Ork Lands a Steady Job

Howard McGhee's 5-piece be-bop crew bagged a job at the Hi-De-Ho Club in L.A. last month, replacing Nappy Lamare's combination. The assignment marked Charlie (Bird) Parker's return to active duty after a long hospital siege. McGhee, a Diz Gillespie disciple, plays trumpet. For many months, until McGhee nabbed the Hi-De-Ho booking, not a single be-bop musician was working regularly in the L.A. area.

Hal Derwin

with FRANK DEVOL and His Orchestra

HIS LATEST

'IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A DIFFERENT STORY'

'YOU CAN TAKE MY WORD FOR IT, BABY'

CAP. 377

Capitol RECORDS



JUMPIN' JACK Smith, happy-voiced crooner who once taught school in his native state of California, makes a quick revision of lyric on his most recent New York needling session for Capitol. Looking more like a pro gridster than a singer, Smith airs five nights a week over CBS for a soap sponsor. He likes to present entertainers like Art Tatum, Ella Fitzgerald, the Clark Sisters and Martha Tilton as his guests. Like Andy Russell, Jack speaks (and chirps) in Spanish as well as English.

Meet the Jockey!

ERNIE SIMON of Chicago's WJJD is a zany character who helps wake up the Windy Citians with his recorded music and whacky chatter. He is 30, he speaks Arabic and French, and his infant daughter is his pride. He'll do anything for a yock, and he gets 'em by dramatizing comic strips, clanging cowbells and inoffensive dialect characterizations. A veteran of World War II, Ernie holds down an afternoon spot, too, on WJJD. Baltimoreans will recall that the same Simon was featured not too long ago on WITH.



'Smilin' Ed' Cuts His First Faces

Smilin' Ed McConnell, for 25 long years one of the most consistently popular entertainers in radio, was signed to a Capitol contract last month. His first record was to be released nationally on April 1.

With Louis Kosloff conducting the orchestra, McConnell ties together two "song stories" slanted especially to children, including "The Doctor Song" and "Funny Things." Smilin' Ed airs every Saturday over NBC from New York. His records were made there, too.

Louie Jordan Okay; Goes East With Ork

His face and chest healed following the altercation with his wife Fleecie, who tried to carve her initials on his skin with a paring knife, Louie Jordan trained back east in March with his Tympany Seven for a run at the N.Y. Paramount. His fans will find him blowing very little sax, however, for one of his face muscles was sliced and is responding to treatment slowly. The Jordans planned a divorce in Chicago before his Paramount opening, incidentally.

'Susie-Q Carries On With Pee-Wee Hunt

Walter (Pee-Wee) Hunt, his trombone and his band succeeded Jack Teagarden's unit at the Susie-Q Club on Hollywood Boulevard in March. Hunt, long famed as a member of the old Casa Loma band with Glen Gray, is said to be set as long as business holds up.

Weekend Policy For L. A. Ballrooms; Bobby Byrne Newest Band Arrival

Hit hard by the Lenten season and general economic slump that apparently has hit California harder than other states, the Casino Gardens, the Meadowbrook, the Avodon and the Trianon have all adopted a "weekends only" policy. The Palladium and the Aragon now are the only major ballrooms presenting name bands six nights a week.

Tommy Dorsey, who owns the Casino Gardens, said that business did not warrant the room being open every night. "I wouldn't say there is a depression on right now," said Tommy, who was in California briefly in March. "Actually, business is just about as it was—perhaps a bit better—than in 1939 or any of the pre-war years. The war boom, however, is ended. Especially in California."

Avodon Hardest Hit

The Avodon has been playing Desi Arnez weekends only and it looked as if Bobby Sherwood would be the next attraction in April. Stan Kenton had a big battle with the Avodon's management and several name crews are no longer anxious to play the spot. All passes to the Avodon were revoked by Jack Rogers, Avodon topper, and Kenton was forced by Rogers to dig deep into his own pockets to pay admission charges at the box-office for columnists, working newspaper men, radio jockies and others who are customarily admitted free.

Rogers is trying to sell the Avodon, but as yet has had no takers. The spot has never been a winner.

The Trianon enjoyed tremendous business during the war, but in recent months has slumped off to virtually nothing. Third-rate band attractions are blamed along with the general economic slump, however. The Trianon has been open weekends only recently, offering "B" and "C" bands.

Scale Bands at Meadowbrook

Joe Zucca's Meadowbrook, in Culver City, near the mighty MGM studios, enjoyed fat business until shortly before Christmas. Harry James, Stan Kenton, Benny Goodman and other top-caliber bands played the Meadowbrook to whopping attendance. Then it, too, fell victim to the slump. Now it is operating weekends only with mediocre bands that work for union scale.

The Palladium, where Les Brown's new band is the current attraction, operates seven nights a week with a Sunday matinee.



HERB JEFFRIES, who has come a long way since his days as an Ellington singer, is one of many coast performers who praise the chirping talents of Lorraine Baker. She comes from Akron, Ohio, and works nightly at the Crown Jewel in downtown Los Angeles. —Photo by Tor-Wolber.

Slump? Nichols Ork, Laine Doing SRO At Club Morocco

While other clubs and ballrooms sweat it out sans patrons, the Club Morocco has been hanging up SRO signs with Red Nichols' Pennies as its bandstand attraction and Frankie Laine on deck as vocalist.

The Nichols combo, boasting Lou McGarrity on tram, Rosey McHargue on clarinet and other widely-known sidemen, goes on and on. Red, in fact, is soon to wind up two solid years there, a stint broken only once when he took a month or two off to play in Oakland last year. The golden R. N. cornet also may be heard in the Ray Noble ork on the Edgar Bergen show and with Johnny Trotter on Bing Crosby's Philco airings.

Coming westward without notice, Bobby Byrne opened at the Casino Gardens March 22 with a newly-organized band which he put together after arriving in H'wood.

The Detroit trombonist, whose career as a leader was interrupted when he took two years out to serve in the army during the war, is making his first appearance in California since he came west in the late 1930's as a sideman with the old Jimmy Dorsey band.

The Casino Gardens is owned by Tommy Dorsey and managed by Kermit Bierkamp. Effective with the Byrne engagement, the room dropped to weekends only.

Ike Carpenter's new crew held down the stand in between the Bobby Sherwood and Byrne engagements. Carpenter leans heavily toward Ellingtonia in his orchestrations and impressed musicians with his "big" sounding ensembles—there are only 11 men in the band. Carpenter is said to be booked for a return engagement following Byrne in late April. Hal Gordon is guiding him.

Fields Scoring 'Body And Soul' Flicker

The first movie assignment for young Frank Gaskin Fields, Negro symphonic composer, will be the United Artists release, "Body and Soul." The film will star John Garfield and Lilli Palmer. Fields, in 1940, won first prize at the World's Fair with his "Chant Ritual." He now is in Hollywood working on the picture.

3 Roy Milton Changes

Roy Milton's little band underwent three major personnel changes in March, shortly before Roy took the revamped group out on tour. Bill Gaither, tenor; Earl Sims, alto, and Clarence Jones, 21-year-old bassist, joined the drummer's combo. Camille Howard remains as pianist and vocalist and Hosea Sapp retains his trumpet chair.

Peggy Lee

with DAVE BARBOUR and His Orchestra

'SPEAKING OF ANGELS' 'SWING LOW SWEET CHARIOT'

HER NEWEST

CAP. 375

Capitol RECORDS



ON DECK to ring in the start of Bill Leyden's morning "Music Hall" program for the second year, Johnny Mercer, Martha Tilton and Paul Weston chime in with ribald repartee as Leyden, extreme right, tries to keep the 'bake under control. Leyden airs over Hollywood's KMPC every morning.

'The Neme' Hits Bigtime; MGM Producer Signs Him

Hollywood, at long last, has discovered Henry Nemo. The zany songwriter and jive talk expert last month was signed to a term contract by Nat Perrin, Metro producer.

The Neme, as musicians call him, had been scuffling in Hollywood as a real estate agent. Back in New York a few years back he turned out a long series of smash tunes including "Don't Take Your Love From Me," "I Let a Song Go Out of My Heart" and "Tis Autumn." Much of today's jive is attributed to his whacky vocabulary. Perrin, much impressed by Nemo's clowning at a recent party, immediately put The Neme in "Song of the Thin Man" with William Powell and Myrna Loy. His big scene is with Keenan Wynn, playing a hot clarinet, as The Neme pounds the Steinway at a penthouse party.

"Nemo," says Perrin, "pranced into my office the other day. He grabbed a coat hanger and used it as a bass fiddle.

He beat out some boogie by flicking the light switch off and on in rhythm. Without playing a note he sold me completely. I think he'll be smash hit in pictures."

The Neme, a bit cynical by now, said he was inclined to agree with the producer.

Leonard, Wald in 'Swing' Musical

Columbia Pictures is about to complete shooting of "Swing the Western Way," a musical in which Jerry Wald's orchestra and Jack Leonard are featured.

Leonard for nearly a year has been studying dramatics in Hollywood. Before the war he was vocal soloist with Tommy Dorsey's band. Wald, who plays clarinet, recently reorganized his band and played an engagement at Ciro's with emphasis on "strings that swing."

vine street gab

XAVIER CUGAT intends to wed Lorraine Allen, Hollywood beauty, on Oct. 3. That's the day his divorce from Carmen Castillo Cugat becomes final. "I take no chances," says Cugie. "I don't want to be one of those Lippy whats his names."

Nitery business around L.A. and Hollywood area is still off. Even Billy Berg's has slumped off precariously. The Morocco is probably doing the best.

Phil Harris heads for the Chicago Theater, Chi, with Jack Benny's troupe for May 9 opening.

New Latin crew organized by Isabelita, now at the Bev Hills Country Club in Covington, Ky., was shaped up by raiding the Cugat and Arnez bands of 10 sidemen. She just finished a Paramount musical short in Technicolor.

West coast songpluggers are now headed by Al Compante with Eddie MacHarg, Charlie (Mousie) Warren and Artie Mehlinger named to board of directors.

Tom Gerun, at one time one of the most popular bandmen on the Pacific coast, closed his Bal Tabarin Club in San Fran. No biz.

Wm. Morris agency excited over signing Doc Blanchard and Glenn Davis to booking contracts. The grid stars will come out from West Point to make a flick this summer.

Leighton Noble's ork goes into the Casino on Catalina Island May 30.

Roy Milton junked his own record firm and will concentrate on his band.

Harold Jovien of "Billboard" resigned to become booker in Hollywood office of General Artists Corp.

Thieves who broke into an Arthur Murray dance studio in Beverly Hills got away with a large record collection. But they left a stack of Lombardo discs intact.

Al Jarvis served as technical advisor to Deanna Durbin for her current role, as a fem jockey, in "For the Love of Mary."



JUST 10, but already featured on radio programs and AFRS shows broadcast overseas, Joan Benson of Southgate, Cal., sings blues like a veteran entertainer. Gene Norman discovered her barrelhouse voice and has been plugging her via his programs on KECA, KFWB and KMPC.

Eckstine Cuts Ork to 6 Men

The Billy Eckstine booking finally was clarified in late March and plans now call for the singer to open at Billy Berg's Hollywood nitery on April 3 with a small, six-piece combo which will reflect a healthy "de-emphasis" of be-bop.

Eckstine formerly conducted a full-sized band with emphasis on screeching brass in the Gillespie groove. The Berg booking calls for 12 weeks, according to Milton Ebbins, his manager. Eckstine and other Berg entertainers will air nightly via KFWB at midnight. Ebbins pointed out that the combo behind the singer will "definitely emphasize jazz, good jazz, but that the be-bopping trumpets will be missing." Billy himself blows a valve trombone. The booking originally was skedded for March 12.

Venuti Fronts Trio For Warner Flicker

Joe Venuti got together a hot trio in mid-March for a stint in Warner Brothers' musical, "Two Guys From Texas," which is in production on the Burbank lot. Venuti, noted for two decades as a jazz fiddler, has been a permanent California resident for the last three years.

singers' stuff

PAUL ROBESON, in Hollywood on a tour, revealed that he plans to abandon the theater and concert stage during the next two-year period so that he can travel throughout the nation "to talk up and down, to anyone who will listen, against race hatred and prejudice."

"It seems," Robeson said, "that I must raise my voice, but not just by singing pretty songs. The next two years are likely to prove the most crucial and important to our country of any similar period in our history."

Metro signed Mel Torme to contract. His first pic will be "Good News" with June Allyson.

London's Beryl Davis continues to attract the attention of Hollywood, most recently on the CBS "Hit Parade" program with Andy Russell.

Dinah Shore back from Washington after command performance.

Calypso chanter, Sir Lancelot, faced the cameras at Universal-International for scenes in "Brute Force" which Mark Hellinger is producing.

Jack Teagarden slipped off to Chicago after two months singing, playing tram and leading small combo at the Susie-Q Club in H'wood.

Freddy Martin's Murray Arnold, singer and pianist, planning his own band shortly.

Jesse Price, after long run in San Diego, hopping up to H'wood for Capitol recording sessions. He drums, too.

Harry (The Hipster) Gibson returned to L.A. from run at Berg's.

Meet the Jockey!

KURT WEBSTER is officially known as the "Night Mayor of Charlotte," North Carolina, that is. Armed with 50,000 watts over Station WBT, Kurt claims he has 150,000 records in his library and he doesn't hesitate to whip 'em out at random on his 11:30 p. m. until 1 a. m. stanza nightly. A grad of George Washington U., he served in the army and was married before becoming a jock. Southern audiences love his patter and platter choices and since his program was launched last fall he's had mail from 46 states and hundreds of ships at sea.



Eddy Howard For The Grove

The battle of the bookers to sell a band to the famous Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, for the 12-week period this summer while Freddy Martin vacations, was won by MCA and Eddy Howard in late March.

Howard, a former Dick Jurgens guitarist and singer, will open at the Ambassador's swank Cocomat Grove room on June 24. Martin's ork, meanwhile, will go east for a long theater tour. The Howard band features arrangements by Lew Quaddling, who also helped build Dick Jurgens' unit before the war. Quaddling now resides in H'wood permanently, turning out from three to five scores every week for the Howard gang.

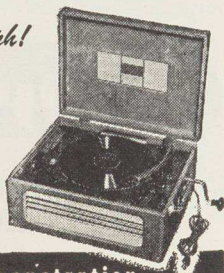
Haymes Eyes Theaters

Dick Haymes is setting up another theater tour for late summer. The singer, under contract at 20th-Fox, was paid more than \$30,000 for a single week's work in Boston last year.

The Most Versatile Portable Phonograph!

Capitol U-24
ELECTRONIC PHONOGRAPH

Plays Anywhere Electronically
AC-DC-BATTERY



Ask Your Capitol Dealer For A Demonstration

Joe Alexander
'HEARTACHES'
'IF I HAD A CHANCE WITH YOU'
CAP. 372
With Orchestra Conducted By DAVE CAVANAUGH



who's where

Knoxville's 'Pappy' Makes Folksongs Seem Different

By CLIFFIE STONE

Maybe you Hollywoodians haven't heard about Pappy (Gube) Beaver. But you will.

Gube got to the big town for the first time recently when Capitol's Lee Gillette met him in Chicago. Gube had to come all the way from Knoxville, where he's long been a favorite with plain folks. For seven years he has been on the air for one sponsor via Stations WROL and WBIR.

A New Disc Due

But here's the payoff—Gube, or Pappy, is only 27 years old. Look at the photo. Young though he is, he keeps up with the older fellows when it comes to singing the folksongs that have been handed down for generations in his family.

Beaver's "Cruel Hearted Girl" and "The Great Judgment Day" will be released in April nationally. You, too, wherever you live, may find his stuff is different.

Army Releases Guthrie

News comes that Jack Guthrie has been discharged from the army. Jack joined his pal Ernest Tubbs in Central California for personal appearances. Soon, he and Tubbs will guest-star with Spade Cooley in Hollywood.

SHORTIES—Merle Travis and Jimmy Wakely have launched a movement toward "shape-note" singing in California. They meet every Friday to sing old gospel songs. Wakely's film contract was just renewed by Monogram and he will star in eight westerns this year. . . That new brand being run in the San Fernando Valley (T-W) means that Tex Williams and family have moved into their new ranch home. Tex leads his band, nights, at the Palace Barn-dance in Glendale. . . Greetings to Dick Reinhart of Oklahoma City's KOMO, who was in Hollywood to greet his old friends. Dick's rendition of "Fort Worth Jail" is something to latch onto.

Willson Show Off Air

Meredith Willson's CBS "Sparkle-time" program, heard every Friday over CBS from Hollywood with Willson's orchestra and guest stars, has been cancelled by the sponsor because of the sugar shortage. The end was unexpected, Willson having enjoyed a high Hooper rating.

Block Starts June 2

Martin Block will begin his new jockey chores on H'wood's KFWB June 2. He moved here from N. Y. last fall.

Pappy Beaver has confined himself to one-nighters in the South since the release of his first record last year, "You Can Be a Millionaire With Me" and "Automobile of Life." He not only sings mountain ballads on the stage, but he likewise does a "country" comedy act that is generally regarded as purely boffo below the M-D line.



CALL HIM PAPPY. . . Gube Beaver isn't as old as he sounds. Cliffie Stone tells the Beaver story in his column above. Two new folksongs by "Pappy" will be released on records April 10. He's only 27!

Former Band Oriole In 'Buffalo' Film

Martha Stewart draws the lead role in 20th-Fox's "Off to Buffalo" musical, which goes before the Technicolor cameras on April 10. Dan Daily co-stars.

Miss Stewart, wife of the comedian Joe E. Lewis, was singing with the Jerry Livingston and Claude Thornhill bands a few seasons back. She also stars in "I Wonder Who's Kissing Her Now" which is completed but not yet released to theaters.

The King Cole Trio *Their Latest!*

'I Want to Thank Your Folks'

'You Should Have Told Me'

VOCALS BY KING COLE

Capitol CAP. 356

Kenton goes CALYPSO!

BACKED BY 'AFTER YOU' CAP. 361

'His Feet Too Big for de Bed' — it's a catchy tune with everything in the book! Poll-leader Stan Kenton and his Orchestra . . . popular June Christy . . . The Pastels, Stan's new vocal group . . . plus the lively lyrics and haunting rhythm of Cuban Calypso. At your dealer — today!

Here's something new from the Kenton Crew:

'CONCERTO TO END ALL CONCERTOS' Parts I and II CAP. 382

Block Starts June 2

Martin Block will begin his new jockey chores on H'wood's KFWB June 2. He moved here from N. Y. last fall.

ACROSS THE ALLEY FROM THE ALAMO' IS NO GREATER LOVE' CAP. 387

Capitol RECORDS

FIRST WITH THE HITS FROM HOLLYWOOD

*This copy of **CAPITOL NEWS**
comes to you through the courtesy of*

Sec. 562, P. L. & R. ★

For:

★ Dealers with local 562 permit may use 1c pre-cancelled stamp (or meter) on mailings of 200 or more; otherwise use 1½c uncanceled stamp or meter). No envelope or sealing required. Mail at Post Office. When 1½c stamp is used, place stamp so it covers up the words "Sec. 562, P. L. & R."

Rumble, Rumble, Rumble!



BETTY HUTTON makes these faces—and more—when she sings "Rumble, Rumble, Rumble," on a new Capitol biscuit just released. Benny Carter wrote the arrangement and Joe Lilley conducts the orchestra. The tune is

featured by Betty in her newest Paramount flicker, "Perils of Pauline." So is the plattermate, "Poppa, Don't Preach to Me." The disc is the first she's made under her new Cap contract.